

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

**Listing of the Claims:**

1. (Canceled)

2. (Previously Presented) A computing environment as recited in claim 23, wherein said file-system-independent component is further operable to:

deny said at least one operation when said determining determines that said at least one operation should not be allowed.

3-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) A computing environment as recited in claim 23, wherein said at least one mandatory lock category can be a Byte-Range lock or a Shared Resource lock.

8. (Previously Presented) A computing environment as recited in claim 7, wherein the type of said Byte-Range lock can be exclusive or shared.

9. (Previously Presented) A computing environment as recited in claim 7,

wherein said Shared Resource lock can have a deny mode associated with it;  
and

wherein said deny mode can be defined with respect to reading or writing of said file.

10. (Previously Presented) A computing environment as recited in claim 23, wherein said at least one operation can be a read, write, delete, rename, memory map or change size operation.

11. (Currently Amended) A computing environment as recited in claim 23, wherein said file-system-independent component is operable to:

(a) receive a request to perform an operation on a file which has a mandatory Byte-Range lock associated with it;

(b) determine whether said requested operation may affect a ~~byte-range~~ Byte-Range of the file~~[[;]]~~, said ~~byte-range~~ Byte-Range representing a portion of said file which is associated with the mandatory Byte-Range lock; and

(c) determine whether said operation is compatible with said Byte-Range lock when said determining (b) determines that said requested operation may affect said ~~byte-range~~ Byte-Range.

12. (Previously Presented) A computing environment as recited in claim 11, wherein said file-system-independent component is further operable to:

determine whether said request was made by the owner of said Byte-Range lock when said determining (c) determines that said operation is not compatible with said Byte-Range.

13. (Previously Presented) A computing environment as recited in claim 11, wherein said mandatory Byte-Range lock can be an exclusive or shared lock.

14-21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) A computing environment as recited in claim ~~49~~ 23, wherein said request to change said file size is allowed when said determining determines that whether said Shared Resource lock does not include a deny write operation.

23. (Currently Amended) A computing environment, comprising:

a file system capable of storing one or more files therein, wherein said file system does not provide mandatory locks for files stored in said ~~first~~ file system;

an operating system that can access files stored in said file system;

a file-system-independent component of said operating system, wherein said file-system-independent component effectively implements mandatory locks for said file system and is operable to:

receive a request to perform at least one operation on a file stored in said file system;

determine whether at least one mandatory lock is associated with said file;

determine a mandatory lock category or type for said at least one mandatory lock when said determining determines that at least one mandatory lock is associated with said file;

determine whether said at least one mandatory lock category or type is compatible with said at least one operation;

determine at least partly based on compatibility of said lock category or type with said at least one operation whether said at least one operation should be allowed; and

allow said at least one operation when said determining determines that said at least one operation should be allowed; and

wherein said at least one operation can be changing the size of a file in said file-system;

wherein said request is a request for changing the size of a file stored in said file system, and said method further comprises:

determining whether a mandatory Byte-Range lock or a mandatory Shared Resource lock is associated with said file;

determining whether said Shared Resource lock includes a deny write operation when it is determined that a mandatory Shared Resource lock is associated with said file;

identifying a region of said file which would be affected by changing the size of said file when it is determined that a mandatory Byte-Range lock has been associated with the file;

determining whether the identified region intersects with the locked region;  
and

determining whether said request was made by an owner of said lock when it is determined that said identified region intersects with said locked region of the file, and allowing said request to change the size of said file when said determining determines that said request is made by said owner of said file denying said request to change the size of said file when said determining determines that said request is not made by said owner of said file.

24-25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously Presented) A computing environment as recited in claim 23, wherein said mandatory locks can be enforced with respect to read, write, delete, rename, memory map, or change size operations.

27-29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium that stores computer program code for said file-system-independent component recited in claim 23.